

Josh Haines  
Mars Hill  
LD 716

My name is Josh Haines and I am writing to oppose LD 716 an act to restrict the hunting of coyotes. I am a registered Maine Master Guide and co-owner of 207 Outfitters. I've been hunting coyotes for over 20 years and during that time I have only seen their numbers and impact rise. I live in northern Maine where deer numbers are currently struggling. I find countless deer and moose carcasses every spring killed by coyotes. Many are young animals who were unlikely sick or injured. Coyote numbers have grown drastically over the last 30 years and now in the winter they decimate deer in the few wintering yards that remain. The current hunting practices are having minimal impact on coyote numbers in northern Maine. Restricting current hunting practices will only put more burden on low deer numbers and increase incidents of human coyote contacts with domestic pets and farm livestock. We lost snaring, which was also wrong in my opinion, due to the lynx and limiting our current coyote hunting would be another step in the wrong direction. Thank you for your time and I hope this statement and issue is taken seriously by our elected officials. Respectfully Josh Haines